Governments has drawn up an Action Plan in this regard, which includes the following measures:

(i) ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in Naxalite affected areas;

(ii) to have a common communication system;

(iii) set up a Control Room in each State;

(iv) Joint patrolling,

(v) Launching of Area Domination Programme among the States.

(vi) Central Government have also arranged for training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations; and

(vii) Strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned states.

State Governments have been requested to initiate steps to implement the Action Plan. The action taken by the States is being reviewed from time to time.

Crimes Against Women in Maharashtra

1588. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra has earned notoriety in crimes against women in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the crimes committed against women in the State during the last two years, year-wise with particular reference to rapes, molestations, kidnappings, murders, dowry deaths etc.;

(c) whether Government have given any advice or directive to the State Government to take stringent action to prevent crimes against women in the State; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The incidence, percentage share and crime rate in respect of Maharashtra as compared to the country as a whole during the last two years, i.e., 1996 and 1997, were as under:—

Crime Against Women during 1996 & 1997

Year	Maharashtra			All India	
	Incidence	% share	Crime rate	Incidence	Crime rate
1996	16567	14.3	18.9	115723	12.4
1997	15689	13.9	17.6	113073	11.9

(b) Relevant information is given below:—

Year	Rape	Kidnapping & Abduction	Dowry deaths	Cruelty by husband & relatives	Molestation	Sexual harassment (eve-teasing)
1996	1444	732	443	9156	3227	870
1997	1206	968	384	7610	3117	974

Year	Importation of girls	Sati Prevention Act	ITPA	Indecent representation of Women Act	Dowry Prohibition Act	Total
1996	17	0	615	43	20	16567
1997	0	0	1401	5	24	15689

(c) and (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police being State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments, including Maharashtra, emphasising the need to take measures to check the menace of crime against women. Most of the States, including Maharashtra, have responded positively to the communications of the Central Government.

Conference of Chief Ministers of N.E. States

1589. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what decisions have been taken at the North-Eastern States Chief Ministers' Conference at Delhi on 8th May, 1998;

(b) whether there is any plan of Government to announce a North-East package programme for the development of North-East States;

(c) how far the former package programme for the North-Eastern States announced by the former Prime Minister, Shri Deva Gowda, has been implemented;

(d) whether the package programme expenditure is adjusted with the normal plan allocation with each State; and

(e) if so, the necessity of announcement of package programme?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) the decisions taken at the 'North Eastern States' Chief Minister's Conference at Delhi on 8th May, 1998 include:

(i) Restructuring of North Eastern Council (NEC) with Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission as its Chairman and inclusion of Sikkim as a full fledged member.

(ii) Adoption of 'Project Approach' for early completion of priority on-going Projects.

(iii) 10% reservation of plan outlays by specified Central Ministries for development of North East on the basis of 'Project Approach'.

(iv) Creation of Central Pool of Resources by diverting unspent balance out of 10% outlay earmarked by the specified Central Ministries for the North East.

(b) No Sir.

(c) There is general progress in almost all the items of the package programme announced by the former Prime Minister.

(d) The Projects being undertaken for the development of North East are, by and large, either Central Schemes or Centrally sponsored schemes. Specified Central Ministries have been asked to earmark 10% of their annual plan for execution of Projects in North-Eastern States. Besides, the unspent balance, if any, out of 10% outlay would be diverted to a 'Central Pool' to meet any shortfall in outlay. Thus NE states will get a sizable flow of resources for their